

REMARKS

Claims 33-42 have been examined. Claims 33, 34, 37-39, 41 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 35 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 36 is allowed.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 33, 34, 37-39, 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 09-086004 to Asakura ("Asakura").

A. Claims 33 and 42

Since claims 33 and 42 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

B. Claims 34 and 37-39

Since claims 34 and 37-39 are now dependent upon allowed claim 36, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

C. Claim 41

By this Amendment, Applicant submits that claim 41 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 36.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Asakura and JP 40-8133556 to Ono (“Ono”)

The Examiner has rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asakura in view of Ono. However, since claim 35 is now dependent upon allowed claim 36, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Asakura and JP 11-321016 to Edatsune (“Edatsune”)

The Examiner has rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asakura in view of Edatsune. However, since claim 40 is now dependent upon allowed claim 36, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 36 contains allowable subject matter.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/750,963

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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